MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 NOVEMBER 1981

Israel

MFO Participation -- Jerusalem radio reported that the Israeli Cabinet adopted a proposal worked out between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to release a declaration of principles for the participation of European countries in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). However, the radio noted that ministers raised numerous comments and reservations on the formulation of the declaration, which will be sent to the United States, and that the Cabinet will discuss the document again when negotiations with the United States on its formulation are completed. The radio had earlier reported that the Cabinet would propose leaving in the declaration only clauses that base participation in the MFO on the Camp David agreements and removing an expression of gratitude for European participation in the MFO as well as a clause asserting that the participants recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338. According to another Jerusalem radio report, Shamir said on his return from Washington on 28 November that the U.S. State Department's approach to European participation in the MFO does not differ from that of Israel's.

A 29 November DAVAR commentary said Israel has no reasonable grounds to veto European participation in the MFO. Asserting that the government should climb down from the "high limb" onto which it has climbed, DAVAR said recent ministerial declarations that Israel would not withdraw from the Sinai if the MFO is not formed give the impression that Israel is only waiting for a good excuse not to complete the withdrawal from the Sinai.

Strategic Cooperation -- Jerusalem radio reported that at a 29 November meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin at Hadassah hospital, the Cabinet approved Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's visit to Washington for talks on the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation.

Israeli-Arab Demonstration -- According to Jerusalem radio, security forces used teargas to disperse a joint Israeli-Arab demonstration in Ramallah on 28 November protesting the closure of Bi'r Zayt University and the recent demolition of several Arab houses. Fifty Israelis were arrested, the radio said.

Egypt

MENA reported that on 29 November the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Israeli charge d'affaires for clarification of Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan's recent statement that Israel will not withdraw from the Sinai if the MFO is not established. Earlier, MENA noted that in a 28 November report on Egypt's official stand regarding Israeli opposition to European participation in the MFO, AL-AHRAM said Egypt has told the United States that Eygpt only asked for EEC participation in the MFO after consultations with Israel, that the European countries decided to participate only after receiving the approval of the sides concerned, including Israel, and that Israel knew full well the European stand on the Middle East problem when it granted such approval. AL-AHRAM said Cairo diplomatic circles reject Israel's hint that rejection of European participation will lead to a "new reality" concerning the MFO, because the MFO has already been formed.

Syria

Damascus radio reported that a car bomb exploded in a crowded Damascus street on 29 November, killing 64 people and wounding 135. The driver of the car was killed, the radio said, and a number of nearby buildings were damaged. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, the explosion occurred near the military police center and the central bank.

Damascus radio accused the Muslim Brotherhood of committing the deed, "within the framework of the imperialist-Zionist plot" against Syria.

Lebanon

Habib Mission -- Beirut radio reported that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib arrived in Beirut on 29 November. On the same day, Damascus radio said TISHRIN warned that U.S. pressure on the "steadfast Arab forces" may increase during Habib's visit to the region. Asserting that Washington is trying to conceal the true objective of Habib's mission behind a "flimsy veil," TISHRIN asked why the United States has not announced the purpose of Habib's new visit.

Phalangist Initiative -- In a speech broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, Lebanese Front Armed Forces Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil announced his side's proposals for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis. Calling for the restoration of sovereignty to the Lebanese state over all its territory, Al-Jumayyil demanded that Syrian forces withdraw from Lebanon and that the PLO and related groups submit to Lebanese sovereignty. All sides should agree that political negotiations rather than armed force should be the medium for the settlement of disputes. Al-Jumayyil went on to call for the implementation by 15 January 1982 of measures in Beirut within this framework, including a final cease-fire, withdrawal of Syrian forces and the Palestine Liberation Army, control of the Palestinian presence and formation of a security force for the capital. Earlier in his speech, Al-Jumayyil said the Phalangist Party should give up its "political bashfulness," engage in political action and work for a strong president for the country. He added that the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon is a necessary conditions for holding honest presidential elections.

Bomb Explosion -- Voice of Lebanon reported that a bomb exploded late on 29 November near a Syrian checkpoint in west Beirut, killing 1 and injuring 10.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on RDF, Chad -- In a speech at a 28 November Sabha military rally broadcast by Tripoli radio, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya will form its own rapid deployment force to oppose the U.S. force of the same name. Libya will place all strategic military means at the disposal of the new force, Al-Qadhdhafi said, so that it may perform the tasks of a rapid deployment force "everywhere" in order to help nations fighting for "freedom." Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that if the United States should intervene in the Arabian Gulf, the Libyan force would be transported there to side with the "Arab people" in the Gulf and fight against the United States.

Al-Qadhdhafi also said Libya now takes a neutral stand in the Chad dispute and will "never interfere if fighting breaks out again in Chad." He reviewed the performance of Libyan troops and aircraft in Chad and noted that Libya had lost 300 dead and 700 wounded during its intervention in that country.

Reportage on Chad -- Tripoli radio reported on 28 November that the Chadian National Liberation Front, Frolinat, has called on President Goukouni Oueddei to dissolve the Chadian Government. The radio also reported the following day that fierce fighting had erupted in eastern Chad.

Fes Summit Aftermath

MAP carried part of Moroccan King Hassan II's 27 November press conference in which he said the Arab summit conference in Fes was suspended not because of inter-Arab differences but because "more information was needed." Meanwhile, the 27 Novmeber edition of the London-based ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that Arab League Secretary

General Chedli Klibi denied that the summit had failed, asserting that the decision to suspend the conference was a sign of courage and a very positive thing. In a similar vein, the Saudi paper AL-YAWM said on 28 November that while what happened in Fes was an unexpected surprise, the postponement was a positive step that will make the summit's future decisions more effective. However, Amman radio reported that the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y expressed apprehension over the dangers of a long delay before the next summit meeting. Meanwhile, a 28 November TISHRIN editorial reported by Damascus radio reiterated Syria's view that under present circumstances a settlement would be inappropriate since it would lead to "capitulation" to Israel and its allies.

According to LE MONDE's 27 November edition, the summit closed session on 25 November witnessed a sharp exchange of words between King Hassan and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and an admission by Crown Prince Fahd that Saudi Arabia has been deeply hurt by "slander" against it and does not understand the opposition to its plan. LE MONDE also noted that some Arab "moderates" approved the decision to postpone the conference because they feared that pressure by Steadfastness and Confrontation Front members would make them adopt resolutions that would affect their relations with the United States and Europe.

Citing the Ash-Shariqah paper AL-KHALIJ, WAM reported that during the summit, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat criticized the Saudi plan for not mentioning the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, called for the involvement of the Soviet Union in any settlement and said clause seven of the Saudi plan should be rescinded. However, according to LE MONDE, 'Arafat also said the Saudi plan should not be abandoned and asked that it be retained on the agenda.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces launched an attack in the Bostan region early on 29 November, retaking 25 square kms of Iranian territory. Another radio report said 1,300 Iraqi troops were taken prisoner, while PARS claimed at least 1,500 Iraqis were killed during the 11-hour offensive. According to an earlier Tehran radio report, the attack severed contacts between Iraqi forces in the north and south of Khuzestan. PARS also claimed that Iranian forces seized control of a bridge over the river Neysan, leaving Iraqi troops with only one infiltration route to Khuninshahr.

The daily Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad radio acknowledged that the attack had taken place but claimed that Iraqi forces had repulsed it and that fierce fighting was continuing. On the other hand, an INA report claimed that the Iraqi forces had not only repulsed the attack but had counterattacked, advancing deep inside Iranian territory.

Iran

PARS reported that a bomb exploded near a Tehran department store on 27 November, killing four people. According to Tehran radio, revolution guards killed five Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas in the capital during a gun battle the same day. On 29 Novmeber the radio reported a clash with Mojahedin in Quchan and the arrest of 18 Mojahedin in Nowshahr. Earlier radio reports mentioned a clash with Kurdish rebels near Divandarreh on 27 November and the murder of four people by rebels in Ma'af the following day.

Citing an announcement by the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office, Tehran radio reported that 1,932 prisoners who had "reformed" have been pardoned and are to be released.

Pakistan

According to Karachi radio, about 100 people connected with the opposition group Al-Zulfiqar have been arrested. The radio did not say when the arrests occurred or name any of those arrested.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AAPSO PRESIDIUM MESSAGE TO AFGHAN PEOPLE

LD260202 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Text] The message of the AAPSO Presidium meeting to the people of Afghanistan, 18-21 November, Kabul, Afghanistan:

We, the representatives of over 61 countries and national and international organizations as the members of the powerful AAPSO movement, gathered in Kabul, the DRA capital, present our warm greetings to every individual residing in Afghanistan, this ancient and beautiful land.

Greetings to the struggling Afghan people who, in their relentless struggle against colonialism and imperialism and in defending their national independence, have created epics. Our warmest greetings to those sons of the Afghan land who are struggling, under their party and revolutionary government, to maintain a better life and a blossoming and prosperous future life. Our greetings to the people of Afghanistan who, by pursuing their proud historical and religious traditions, are making efforts to consolidate relations, good neighborliness, friendship and solidarity with the people in the region. We assure the courageous people of Afghanistan that the Sawr Revolution, as a start on the path of socioeconomic progress in Afghanistan, is supported resolutely by all your international friends. We, while expressing our feelings and profound respect to the Afghan people, on behalf of the international friends of free and proud Afghanistan, on behalf of millions of mankind who realize profoundly the value of a honorable, peaceful and prosperous life, request you to intensify further your struggle in order to put an end to the interference of imperialism in your country.

The enemies of your homeland, the enemies of your innocent children and people, want to continue bloodshed and death and to eliminate your homeland. World-devouring imperialism and its collaborators want to create obstacles on the path of the victorious Sawr Revolution and its humane aims by resorting to terror and savagery. Those who, out of retaliation, want to continue fratricide and the destruction of Afghanistan, are those who have an unending desire for supremacy and seek their interests in the detriment and harm of others. But the true patriots of Afghanistan, despite these obstacles, have tried and are trying to maintain and consolidate the unity of all national forces for rebuffing subversive intrigues against the Sawr Revolution, which are being continued against the existence of Afghanistan and its people.

We, the representatives of various countries and peoples in the world, at the time of our stay in this country found that the true sons of the people of Afghanistan, by pursuing the principled path, had founded the NFF, which unites all national forces and the defenders of the gains of the Sawr Revolution and the life of the people. All classes of the people, including workers, peasants, artisans, patriotic religious leaders, intellectuals, women and youth are taking part in this front and are fighting for a glorious future for the people of Afghanistan, keeping laudable traditions, faith and pure belief. They are enjoying the resolute support of the world progressive and peace-loving people of the world.

We support the initiatives of the DRA Government which have been put forward for the purpose of improving relations and settling disputes with neighbors, that is, Iran and Pakistan. Another path, without talks for eliminating disputes, does not exist. These talks should be based on the principles of mutual respect, sovereighty and noninterference in each others' affairs. The DRA Government, which has maintained rights, security and a peaceful life for the Muslim people of Afghanistan within the framework of the NFF, is against aggression and desires the peaceful settlement of problems. Thus we ask all patriotic Afghan sons to welcome the voice of national unity and join the broad NFF. We are fully confident that the revolutionary solidarity is a vital necessity in the development process of the Afghan national-democratic revolution. Mere traitors to the homeland and the Sawr Revolution do not care about this historical necessity. Of course, history and the people of Afghanistan will condemn these traitors.

Let peace and prosperity be with the people of Afghanistan!

HUDA SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT 24 NOV

BK240929 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Dr M.N. Huda was sworn in as the vice president at a simple ceremony at BAnga Bhavan in Dacca this morning. President Sattar administered the oath of office. Dr Huda, the noted economist, was once the finance minister. Prior to his appointment as the vice president he was an adviser to the president.

NEW CABINET SWORN IN BY PRESIDENT SATTAR

BK280957 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Twenty-three ministers, 15 state ministers and 4 deputy ministers were sworn in at a simple but impressive ceremony at Banga Bhavan this evening. President Sattar administered the oath of the office. Shah Azizur Rahman remains the prime minister and Jamaluddin Ahmed deputy prime minister. Shah Azizur Rahman maintains the portfolio of the Ministry of Education and Jamaluddin Ahmed the Ministry of Industry. The other ministers and their portfolios are:

Ministry of:

Foreign Affairs	Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq
Ports, Shipping, Inland, Water Transport and Establishment Division	Majidul Haq
Commerce	Mustafizur Rahman
Information and Broadcasting, Sports and Cultural Affairs	Shamsul Huda Chowdhury
Home Affairs	M.A. Matin
Finance	Saifur Rahman
Relief and Rehabilitation	Imran Ali Sarkar
Agriculture and Forest	Fasiuddin Mahtab
Law and Parliamentary Affairs	T.H. Khan
Youth Development	Abul Qasim
Public Work and Urban Development	Abul Hasnat
Food	Abdul Mohmen Khan
Religious Affairs	Abdur Rahman
Railways, Roads and Highways	Abdul Alim
Health and Population Control	Abdul Rahman Biswas
Labor and Manpower	Riazuddin Ahmed
Energy	Kazi Anwarul Haq
Jute and Textiles	Prof Yusuf Ali
Civil Aviation and Tourism, Posts, Telegraph and Telephone	Moidul Islam
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives	Abdul Halim Chowdhury
Power, Flood Control and Water Resources	L.K. Siddiqui

The state ministers and their portfolios are:

Law and Parliamentary Affairs	Abdus Salam Talukdar
Industry	Syed Mohibul Hassan
Fisheries and Livestock	Amirul Islam Kalam
Land Administration and Land Reform	Abdul Mannan Sikdar
Health and Population Control	Aftabuz Zaman
Women's Affairs	Begum Taslima Abid
Education	Maulana Abdul Mannan and Abdul Bhasin
Relief and Rehabilitation	Jafar Imam
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives	Chowdhury Kamal (?ibn) Yusuf
Food	Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury
Energy	Sunil Kumar Gupta

Information and Broadcasting, Sports and Cultural Affairs	Noor Mohammad Khan
Civil Aviation, Post, Telegraph and Telephone	L.C.K. Chowdhury
Foreign Affairs	Jamirruddin Sirkar

The deputy ministers and their portfolios are:

Home Affairs	Prof Abdus Salam
Jute and Textiles	Nural Amin Howladar
Labor, Manpower and Social Welfare	Begum Quamrunnahar Zafar
Flood Control	Syed Manzur Hussain

The portfolios of the Ministries of Defense, Planning, Cabinet division and president's secretariat will be looked after by the president himself.

PATRIOTIC FRONT CANDIDATE ON ELECTION RIGGING

BK211112 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Nov 81 p 12

[Text] Patriotic Front nominee Mohammad Toaha on Monday alleged that the just ended presidential election was the exposition of "total rigging" and the result was imposed on the people undemocratically, reports BSS.

Describing his impression of the election at a press conference on Monday afternoon at the central office of the front Mr. Toaha said rigging was general feature everywhere in the country on Sunday.

He accused the ruling party of rigging the election and said "they unleashed a reign of terror in all the election centres."

"A deeprooted conspiracy was going on to murder me," Mr. Toaha informed the pressmen and added "the ruling party and its government were involved in it."

He, however, said "the political standpoint" of his front was the target for this conspiracy.

AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS ADDRESS PROTEST RALLY

BK281335 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Nov 81 p 12

[Text] Chittagong, 23 Nov -- Dr Kamal Hossain, member of Awami League Presidium, declared here today that his party would launch a vigorous country-wide movement for the restoration of what he called democracy and rule of people.

Bitterly criticising the foreign press, he said that foreign journalists presented a concocted and biased news on election proceedings only to suit the desire of the ruling party.

Addressing a protest rally at Laldighi Maidan this afternoon Dr. Kamal said that he contested the presidential election not for grabbing power, but for establishing the right of people in ruling the country.

The rally, organised in protest against "rigging" in the presidential election, was addressed among others by Awami League General Secretary Mr. Abdur Razzak; Mr. Musharraf Hossain; Mr M.A. Mannan; and Mr. Abdullah al-Harun. The rally was presided over by Mr Akhtaruzzaman Babu, president of Chittagong North District Awami League.

He said that he was defeated not by votes, but by the announcement of radio and television. The people overwhelmingly gave their verdict by raising hands in support of him in the public meetings which were sure sign of his victory, he added.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, general secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League, in his speech cautioned the ruling party against intimidation and torture of Awami League workers after the election. Otherwise, he said, the ruling party will face serious consequences in the country.

GANDHI DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH USSR

BK280730 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] The prime minister has said that coexistence and cooperation among people with different political systems is an essential precondition for peace and stability in the world. Mrs Gandhi said this in an interview with the Soviet news agency TASS on the eve of the Indo-Soviet friendship month which began yesterday.

The prime minister said the Soviet Union has shown understanding of the independent policy pursued by India, particularly, its adherence to nonalignment. In times of difficulty also India had received support from the Soviet Union.

Referring to the growing economic cooperation between the two countries, Mrs Gandhi said the Soviet Union is one of India's biggest trading partners today.

She pointed out that the recent launching of an Indian satellite from the Soviet cosmodrome and the Troposcatter link established recently between the two countries are examples of scientific cooperation.

SOVIET NAVAL CHIEF ARRIVES, CALLS ON GANDHI

BK280911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Soviet Naval Chief Admiral Sergey Gorshkov is now in New Delhi on a 6-day visit. Admiral Gorshkov, who is leading a naval delegation, called on the prime minister on his arrival yesterday. He also called on Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Patil.

USSR'S KATUSHEV ON BID TO IMPROVE INDIA-PRC TIES

BK280913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Katushev says India's efforts to improve relations with China will in no way hamper the growing Indo-Soviet friendship. Katushev was speaking to newsmen at Calcutta airport during a brief stopover on his way back home from Vietnam.

GANDHI URGES STRONG CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS

BK281624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has said India is keen to strengthen its contacts with Saudi Arabia to create better understanding and closer economic cooperation. Mrs Gandhi expressed her view today when the Saudi Arabian commerce minister called on her.

The Saudi Arabian minister called for visits of delegations for better awareness of India's capabilities. He commended the work done by the Bharat heavy electricals on an electrification project awarded to them in the southern part of his country.

GANDHI RECEIVES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATES

BK251621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 81

[Text] In New Delhi today, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi told the visiting European parliamentary delegation that the concept of interdependence in international economic relations has to be acknowledged as a political reality. Expressing concern over the deteriorating security environment, particularly in Asia, she pointed out that one military presence leads to another, resulting in negative competition.

Mrs Gandhi also stressed the need for improving the economic and social conditions of all the people of the world and for lessening disparities between nations.

The nine-member delegation led by (Paul Berges) of France spent about 45 minutes with Mrs Gandhi. Others in the delegation are from the Netherlands, West Germany, Britain, Belgium and Ireland.

Answering their queries the prime minister reaffirmed that India's assessment of any development is not and cannot be influenced by its friendship with one or the other country. She said it has always been India's policy to seek areas of cooperation with other nations however small, and then enlarge upon them.

The delegation paid rich tributes to India's achievement and the role Mrs Gandhi has played in projecting the socioeconomic aspirations of the Third World. The delegation also informed Mrs Gandhi that the European community will be opening a permanent mission in New Delhi.

The delegation earlier called on President Sanjiva Reddy. They were with the president for about half an hour.

AFP: PARLIAMENTARIANS CALL VISIT DISAPPOINTMENT

BK291730 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Nov (AFP) -- The week-long visit of the European Parliament delegation to India was described by the delegates as a "major disappointment", PTI news agency reports from Bombay said.

According to PTI, many of the parliamentarians, who left for home today, felt that the schedule of meetings with ministers, officials and other dignitaries was too tight and there was little scope for informal discussions with Indian parliamentarians.

They said their visit had been planned with the Indian Embassy at Brussels, the headquarters executive commission of European communities, months ago.

It had been then stressed that the European parliamentarians wanted to discuss issues such as implementation of commercial and economic agreement with the European economic community signed in June last, Indo-Pakistan relations, industrial relations and trade union rights in the country among other topics, with all shades of opinion in the Indian parliament.

The delegates concluded that the tight schedule of meetings with ministers, officials and dignitaries was due to the lack of traditions of non-formal meetings with parliamentarians of other countries.

India must build up these traditions because it sent and received a number of parliamentary delegations, the agency quoted them as saying.

A spokesman for the socialist group said the delegation had heard official versions about all the issues they raised, but they were "skeptical" because not all shades of opinions had been heard.

RAO COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN NO-WAR PACT OFFER

BK251110 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 81

[Excerpts] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao reaffirmed in the lower house of parliament today that India stands by its original offer of the no-war pact made to Pakistan without any exceptions, conditions or variations. India is committed to the normalization of relations with Pakistan as laid down in the Simla Agreement that implies that the two countries settle the problems by direct bilateral discussions without involving third parties. Rao was making a statement on the reported offer of a no-war pact by Pakistan.

Rao pointed out that both the context and the timing of the suggestion were significant -- namely the U.S. congressional hearing and the U.S.-Pak arms deal. It was made in a public statement which ironically justifies the acquisition of arms which are more likely to regenerate confrontation and promote an arms race in the subcontinent. This was followed by an anti-India propaganda offensive. Though it was difficult to take this as basis for a proper response, the Government of India did not say anything which could be construed as negative. Our attitude would be positive on the basis that Pakistan's so-called proposal constitutes an acceptance for the first time of India's offer of a no-war pact which has stood intact since 1949 and further amplified by the Simla Agreement.

RAO QUESTIONED ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

BK271044 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] There seems to be little hope of receiving further shipment of nuclear fuel from the United States for the Tarapur plant. This was stated by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in the upper house of parliament while replying to a question today.

He said that the agreement with the United States is still in force and therefore the question of making alternative arrangements for fuel is premature. He said the future of the agreement was recently discussed by an Indian delegation with the United States and its report is now under consideration of the government.

He, however, pointed out that as long as the agreement is there it is the obligation of the United States to supply the fuel. The minister said at the last official level meeting the United States had expressed its inability to supply nuclear fuel because of domestic anti-proliferation laws.

Replying to another question Narasimha Rao said the shortage of nuclear fuel is causing difficulties to the efficient operation of the Tarapur atomic power station.

Rao informed the house that India will continue to endeavor to strengthen bilateral relations with the United States.

In a reply he said it would be inaccurate to state that relations with the United States have deteriorated over the last 6 months, considering there have been differences of perception between the two countries.

In a separate reply, Rao informed the members of parliament that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will be visiting India to lead the delegation to the Indo-U.S. joint commission meeting. Discussions on bilateral and international issues would come up during his visit.

BOUNDARY TALKS WITH BANGLADESH END IN DACCA

BK281628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] The 2-day Indo-Bangladesh official level talks on the implementation of land boundary agreement ended in Dacca today. The India side was led by Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Eric Gonsalves and the Bangladesh side by Foreign Secretary Hunayun Rashid Chowdhury.

A joint press release said the demarcation of the remaining sector of the land boundary and the question of the terms and conditions of the lease of the Tinbigha corridor in West Bengal figured at the talks. The two sides will meet again in New Delhi shortly.

Earlier, Eric Gonsalves called on Bangladesh President Abdus Sattar and conveyed to him greetings of President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi.

The All-India radio Dacca correspondent reports that President Sattar reiterated the need for cordial relations between the two countries.

BANGLADESH TO TAKE BACK TRIBAL REFUGEES

BK271318 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] The external affairs minister informed the upper house today that Bangladesh has indicated its willingness to take back the tribals who had crossed over to India. He said the problem of the influx of refugees from Bangladesh to the northeastern state of Tripura was discussed by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi with the Bangladesh prime minister at the Cancun summit meeting last month.

Narasimha Rao said subsequently meetings of the concerned district officials have taken place to finalize the modalities for the speedy return of the tribals.

INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROSPECTS VIEWED

BK291503 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Nov 81 p 6

[Text] Any realistic appraisal of the military exercises in the Indian Ocean by the USA, Egypt, Sudan and Somalia will suggest that even many of the littoral governments are edging away from their commitment to the zone of peace concept. The prospects of a global conference this year under United Nations auspices seem dimmer than ever, and there is little likelihood of Madagascar's alternative suggestion of an international meeting leading anywhere. Moscow expectedly supports both proposals, but that must be recognized as a tactical move to score over Washington, which advances the view that the climate is not yet conducive to harmony. This is not to suggest that the nonaligned nations, which are demanding a conference by the first half of 1983 at the latest, are not justified in fearing for their security, or that the Commonwealth summit conference was being excessively idealistic in calling for an end to military rivalry on the high seas. But the question of the Indian Ocean cannot be viewed in isolation from the overall problem of the arms race between the USA and the USSR; nor can the two superpowers be expected to desist from competition in an area that both see as vital to their interests until some measure of general agreement has been reached.

Caught between the devil and the deep, the Third World is understandably impatient about what it sees as American obstructiveness. But more blunt U.S. pronouncements should not delude it into overlooking the fact that there has been no diminution of Soviet activity, especially in the ocean's northwest stretches. Even less realistic is the group's unwillingness to grasp that a UN resolution endorsed in the era of detente can have little relevance until similar conditions have again been restored. The shah of Iran's fall, Egypt's tentative rapprochement with Israel, the occupation of Afghanistan, uncertainty in Kampuchea and less publicized events like hostilities between Ethiopia and Somalia and between the two Yemens are all developments in which the USA and the USSR have a stake as much because of practical reasons such as oil, as because they impinge on what are seen as spheres of influence. All these conflicts also cast their shadow over the Indian Ocean; rivalry there being mainly an extension of tension in the Middle and Far East. Even many of the countries bordering the ocean feel that their strategic and economic interests are best protected by some form of military presence.

While the most vocal among Third World nations are anxious only for an American withdrawal, others would like to see naval parity between the USA and USSR. There is also a third group of littoral countries (Singapore, Australia and Kenya for instance) which would feel safer if the Soviet presence were less prominent.

Whatever the merits of these differing points of view, they would only lead to fruitless public acrimony if the conference motion, pursued in the Third World with obsessive energy, were to materialize. Delegates would make speeches for the record, the gap between the United States and Soviet positions would become more pronounced, and nonaligned nations would be drawn into taking sides with the superpowers. Moreover, a conference that ended in failure, as seems inevitable, would be a major setback, killing hopes of agreement within the foreseeable future. It would be much more to the point to allow the UN's 46-member ad hoc committee unobtrusively to continue to try and harmonize points of view until a lowest common denominator deal seems possible. The ideal of an ocean free of any warships is too fanciful even to be pursued. Since neither superpower will surrender what it sees as fundamental strategic positions or give up crucial advantages, the best that can be hoped for is a consensus that respects the sovereignty of Third World nations without affecting the interests of either the USA or the USSR.

SIKH TEMPLE BOMBED IN PUNJAB; 3 KILLED

BK300341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed in a powerful explosion yesterday afternoon in the kitchen of Gurdwara Gurdarshan Prakash, headquarters of Sant Bhindranwale at Chowk Mehta about 40 km from Amritsar.

The sant was out of the place when the incident occurred. The Gurdwara authorities have registered a case with the police.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the entry of the police to the place of the explosion was very much delayed by the Gurdwara management and the dead bodies had not been handed over to the police till late last night for post mortem.

Explosion To Be Discussed

BK300755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Speaker Balram Jakhar told the Lok Sabha today that yesterday's explosion in the Mehta Chowk in Amristar is a serious matter and informed the house that the motion on Khalistan for discussion tomorrow has been admitted by him.

This observation was made by Jakhar when Mani Ram Bagri, DSP, raised the matter as soon as the house met today. He wanted the discussion on the explosion to be taken up immediately and the question hour suspended. The speaker expressed his inability to allow the discussion, as a motion has to be brought up in a proper manner.

HOME MINISTER SCORES SECESSIONIST MOVEMENTS

BK291440 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] The home minister has said that secessionist movements anywhere in the country will be dealt with severely. Talking to newsmen in Nagpur, he refuted the allegation that there has been deterioration in the law and order situation. About atrocities on Harijans, Zail Singh said the real reason is the people who have been oppressed by the affluent sections of society have started asserting their rights.

Opening the silver jubilee celebrations of the Sikh education society in Nagpur, the home minister said that Guru Nanek [Sikh religious leader] never advocated a separate state for the Sikhs. He said those who demand a separate state in the name of Sikhism are not true Sikhs.

PROHIBITORY ORDERS ISSUED IN GAUHATI, ASSAM

BK271553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Prohibitory orders under section 144 have been imposed in Gauhati subdivision, Assam. This has come into force with immediate effect. The situation throughout the state continues to be normal and peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported.

BHASKARA II CAMERAS OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY

BK281626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] The second TV camera of Bhaskara II was switched on today successfully. As already reported, the first TV camera of the satellite was operated yesterday.

According to a press release of the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore, the second camera has sent good pictures. Three of the pictures were cloud free. They cover a 340-km strip along the Bombay-Rameshwaran track including parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Both the TV cameras of the satellite will be switched on simultaneously tomorrow.

BRIEFS

AID TO UGANDA -- India is to provide technical assistance to Uganda for the development of agriculture. A memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in New Delhi says under this agreement assistance will be provided in several areas, including tea, irrigation, forestry and cooperatives. A team from Uganda will visit India for detailed discussions on the expansion of the sugar industry, development of biogas in rural areas and processing of oil seeds, rice, wheat and cashewnut. Other agreements signed between the two countries in the presence of visiting Ugandan President Milton Obote and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi cover a wide spectrum of bilateral relations in commercial, technical, economic and cultural fields. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Nov 81 BK]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO -- India and Morocco signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation in New Delhi on 20 November. Besides joint ventures, it provides for training of technical personnel and deputation of experts. The agreement, valid for 5 years, was signed by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and Moroccan Minister for Commerce and Industry Guessous. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 81 BK]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES -- New Delhi, 25 Nov (AFP) -- India's foreign exchange reserves, excluding gold and SDR's, declined to Rs. 36,550 million (about U.S. $4,060 million) as on October 31 from Rs. 46,100 million (about U.S. $5,120 million) on April 30 this year, according to Finance Minister R. Venkataraman. The minister told parliament in a written reply to a query that the government had been taking a number of steps to improve the foreign exchange position and maintain it at a comfortable level. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 25 Nov 81 BK]

HAQ REITERATES HOPES FOR GOOD INDIAN RELATIONS

BK271709 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the situation along Pakistan's borders is peaceful and there is no concentration of troops on our side of the border.

He reiterated that Pakistan desires good neighborly relations with India. Answering a question about Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao's statement on Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact with India, the president said: I can comment on that only after I have read the full text of the statement. The president said the development of good relations between two countries depends on three things: contacts between the two peoples; relations at the governmental level: and the role of the mass media.

He said the relations between the people of India and Pakistan are normal at the government level. He said the mass media of the two countries should also try to create a cordial atmosphere.

Later, after his arrival in Lahore, the president informed the newsmen that there is a likelihood that the announcement about the formation of the federal council as well as about expansion of the Federal Cabinet may be made next month. He said after formation of the federal council an announcement would be made as to what role the council can play in framing the Constitution. The president said the decision to this effect would be made when the powers of the council are finalized. He said: I want to give wide powers to the federal council. The president unequivocally said that the government has no intention of canceling the 1973 Constitution; however, he said that the federal council would amend the Constitution to bring it in line with Islamic principles.

In reply to the question as to what obstacles are there in the way of holding elections, the president said the journalists should themselves be aware of these obstacles. He said: I feel that at this juncture elections cannot be held. In order to hold elections there must be some purpose before the nation.

The president has arrived in Rawalpindi.

HAQ SUPPORTS 'NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS' WITH USSR

BK261410 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Nov 81

[Excerpts] The president has reiterated that Pakistan cannot give up its principled stand on Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport this morning, he said Pakistan and the Soviet Union were engaged in regular talks on Afghanistan. Pakistan had, however, made it clear that it would not accept suggestions to start negotiations with the Karmal regime because this will be against its principled stand on Afghanistan.

The president said Pakistan wants good neighborly relations with the Soviet Union. Pakistan also desires that the Soviet Union should solve the Afghanistan issue.

Answering a question, he said work is going on for the formation of a majlis-i-shoora [working council]. He will make formal announcement when the work had been completed some time next month.

He said names of all members of the majlis-i-shoora will not be announced at the same time. He said he will keep some of our options open.

DETAILS OF SOUTHERN FRONT VICTORIES REPORTED

LD291212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Excerpts] In their ceaseless battle today the zealous combatants of Islam carrying out the "Tariq al-Quds" operation [Jerusalem path] in mud and dirt caused by the divine rain, touched the borders of beloved Khuzestan and caused the Saddamist aggressors to look undignified.

Today the zealous combatants of the army of Islam, carrying out the great "Tariq al-Quds" operational plan which in the opinion of military experts and observers is of unique importance and size throughout the war, achieved spectacular victories. With their lightning raids on the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist army in Khuzestan, they reached that province's borders, crushed the enemy's defense lines, recaptured vast areas of Khuzestan's occupied zones and disrupted the aggressive Iraqi forces' military positions as well as the enemy's contact with its forces in large areas of Khuzestan.

According to reports filed from Ahvaz by correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the continuation of the ceaselsss battle on the southern fronts waged by the heroes of the army of Islam against the forces of the blasphemous Saddamist forces, at 1000 this morning the aggressive Iraqi forces in the Bostan area were completely surrounded by the brave combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have no alternative but to surrender or to be killed. As a result of the army of Islam's extensive victories on the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam have so far captured 500 Iraqi prisoners of war on the northern Allaho Akbar front.

According to a report filed from Ahvaz by the Central News Unit, the victory of the "Tariq al-Quds" operational plan had the following results:

The forces of Islam have reached the border;

More than 70 villages occupied by the Ba'thist aggressors in the Bostan area have been recaptured;

The contact between the enemy forces in the north and south of Khuzestan has been cut off -- this will cause difficulty and disruption in providing supplies to the Saddamist aggressors;

A large quantity of the enemy's ammunition and weapons has been taken as spoils of war in this region.

According to other reports filed from Ahvaz by the correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 2430 [as heard] last night the combatants of Islam in the northwest and west of Susangerd and in the (Shohaytiyah) region began their very great operation called "Tariq al-Quds" with the slogan of "Oh, you Hoseyn [third Shi'ite imam], you are the commander."

According to reports dispatched by the Voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, when these operations started it was raining and about 200 square km of operational area had become muddy. The heroes of the army of Islam captured a large number of enemy personnel and destroyed the Alvand bridge, the most important bridge on the Neysan River in west Susangerd, and robbed the enemy of any counterattack south of the Neysan River.

The latest reports show the enemy's frustration, surprise, astonishment and escape in various parts of the operational areas. The enemy's defense lines were in the areas of (Seydaniyah), Dehlaviyyeh and the northern part of (Shohaytiyeh). In the first hours of the attack the combatants of Islam managed to cut all of these lines.

250 Square Km Seized

LD291815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Excerpt] With an onslaught by our powerful combatants which began early this morning in the southern region, our forces were able to purge the Bostan and Allaho Akbar regions from the filthy presence of the aggressive enemy.

In these successful operations some 250 square km of the sacred Islamic homeland were wrested from the aggressive Saddamists and a very large number of infidel Saddamists were killed or wounded. The count is continuing. In addition, a large number of annihilated [as heard] aggressive enemy forces were captured by the honor-acquiring warriors of the army of Islam. According to reports, received so far, nearly 1,000 of the captured have been evacuated behind the lines. A very large quantity of spoils of war has also been seized by Islam's combatants. Detailed figures will be made available later to the God-seeking and militant nation.

[Signed] Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

1,500 Killed; 1,100 Captured

LD291850 Tehran PARS in English 1822 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 29 Nov (PARS) -- At least 1,500 Iraqi soldiers were killed and more than 1,100 captured in the wake of an 11 hours offensive by the Iranian forces which culminated in the recapturing of the city of Bostan north of Susangerd from occupying forces on the 427th day of its occupation by Iraqi troops today.

As enemy troops were forced to withdraw towards the Iraqi border, several divisions of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fought their way to the border areas and cut off enemy strategic and infiltration routes passing safely through heavily mined fields, and finally performing a mid-day mass prayers in the city of Bostan, five kilometres east of the Iran-Iraq border.

The Iranian forces launched their all-out offensive against the occupying forces from the three fronts of Shahsavan, Dehlaviyyeh and Chulaneh braving a heavy downfall of rain and misty weather. A group of Iraqi captives said the PARS today that during the offensive [of] the Iranian forces, Division 11 of the Iraqi forces was completely disintegrated, with a small number of Iraqis managing to flee to the city of Al-Amarah in Iraq, while the commander of Brigade 48 of the Iraqi forces was reportedly killed in the operations. Iranian military sources said today that Iraqi weaponary in the offensive the size of which could not be determined at this point. [sentence as received]

Musavi Congratulates Fighters

GF291420 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's call to the Iranian people on the "brilliant victory achieved by fighters of Islam" early this morning -- read by announcer]

[Text] Oh heroic Iranian people: The heroes of the (?Islamic) nation have created another legend on the arena of fighting between right and wrong and have achieved a new brilliant victory.

The dear people of the Islamic nation and the sons of you -- the heroic and struggling people -- have liberated Bostan, northern Susangerd, from the filthy presence of the Iraqi aggressors. The forces of Islam -- consisting of brother military personnel; the revolution guards, irregular and tribal forces and other forces of Islam -- have launched a new and unprecedented attack on the forces of the enemy in Bostan. As a result of this attack, they have destroyed the enemy's positions, captured hundreds of his personnel and a large quantity of his material and ammunition.

On the arena of the struggle and march by the honorable Iranian people, there is another front being made by the counterrevolutionaries who resent the victories of the Islamic revolution and who are feeling defeated by the victories of your valiant sons in the battlefront. They will continue to vomit their poison of hatred and rancor toward the revolution and the revolutionaries. Therefore, you have to [words indistinct] the enemies more and more through your vigilance and your continuous presence in the field.

No doubt this great victory will be a step toward more victories and more brilliant successes. War is still the most important (?place) for us. God willing, we will remove the enemies from our way through our unity, resistance and self-denial.

The sacrifices, self-denial and brave resistance by your sons on the front call for an appropriate response. We all have to double our resistance and consciousness behind the front. I express my thanks for this great victory. We are awaiting total victory and the purgation of our Islamic homeland from the filthy presence of the aggressive enemy in the light of the following Koranic verse: "Help from God and a near victory."

On the occasion of this glorious victory, I express my congratulations and blessings to the awaited Imam -- may God quicken his comming -- and his deputy, Imam Khomeyni, the sacrificing and faithful Iranian people, the brave fighters of the Islamic nation -- whether they are from the army, Revolution Guards Corps, the irregular and tribal forces -- and the millions of the masses of our nation. I also greet the pure souls of the martyrs of Islam and the Islamic revolution. I invoke Almighty God to grant victory to the army of Islam and total victory to Muslims over infidels, hypocrites and world arrogance. I hope more victories are achieved under the flag of monotheism [tawhid].

[Signed] Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Khomeyni Praises Combatants

LD301154 Tehran PARS in English 0945 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 29 Nov (PARS) -- The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, today responded to cables of congratulations sent to him by President Khamene'i, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brigadier General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the ground force, Colonel 'Ali Shirazi, and commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Morteza Reza'i. The following is a translation from the text of the Imam's reply to them:

"I have been in receipt of the kind cables in which you have informed me of the good news of the massive triumph of our brave armed forces on the satanic and American-inspired forces who by their treacherous inroads gave promises of another epoch-making triumph reminiscent of the historical Qadessiyeh battle of brains devoid of faith in the invisible. Reliance on machineguns and army tanks and neglect of the Almighty God, and the army of God will lead men into the desert of ruin and infamy."

"Those who regard the satanic machinery, and such things as MiG's, and Mirages as being the key to eventual victory, and those who do not count on faith in the invisible and the Almighty as anything conducive to victory and those who brag of reviving just another victory comparable to that of the battle of Qadisiyah, and those who have failed to understand the secret of the victory of the battle of Qadisiyah and the triumph of the believers in the early years of Islam, and those who cannot understand the power of faith and the power of love of martyrdom engenders in man, must face a shameful defeat and get a divine retribution."

"They should learn a lesson from the victories of the early years of Islam which celebrated the victory of blood over sword and infernal forces. The people of Iran as well as the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Mobilisation and other military and civic forces are continuing their defenseive efforts in order to safeguard Islam and this Islamic country and in order to rush to their doomsday visit with him."

"There is a difference between such of our beloved people and those who have been beguiled into serving for the vicious objectives of the United States and its dependent power by waging a war against Islam and the holy Koran."

"What is a source of pride to me is the magnanimous spirit of our beloved people and their hearts which are imbued with faith and sincerity and their spirit of scorning martyrdom who are true soldiers to the greatest of God's friends (may our souls for him be sacrificed, referring to the twelfth imam of our time), and such is the greatest of all victories."

"Before I seize upon the opportunity for expressing my felicitations to the great people of Iran and to our brave commanders on the occasion of our dignifying and great victory in Khuzestan, I would like to congratulate them for the presence of such combatants among us who have proved superior in either the spiritual and external or visible fronts."

"Glorified by such mighty combatants and such lovers of the everlasting revelation in the beloved country of Iran and by our noble people, and glorified by the soldiers who are thus fascinated in their eternal friend and whose ultimate aspiration is martyrdom and who consider self-sacrificing acts in the path of their beloved destination as being their ultimate goal.

Glory be to the combatants who have scented the battlefronts with their invocation and with their soliloquies with their beloved. Pride and dignity be to those of our youth who are treading a path for safeguarding a religion which is undefeatable and wholly victorious."

"Shame be unto them who lose their lives and reputation in a path in which their victory is in effect their defeat and their survival is a source of disgrace to them."

"I would like to appreciate our respectable commanders, our beloved combatants with our armed forces, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, members of the Mobilisation of the Oppressed, gendarmerie, the state police, and our respectable tribals as well as our irregular and civic forces. Greetings be to you and to all of those who create epics for Islam and for their beloved country. I implore the supreme [word indistinct] for the eventual victory of the Islamic combatants and for the good health and prosperity of all."

Recaptured Areas Open to Newsmen

LD301344 Tehran PARS in English 0922 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 30 Nov (PARS) -- The war information headquarters hereby invites foreign reporters to visit the recently recaptured areas in the battlefronts. On Sunday 250 square kilometers of land were liberated by the dauntless combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the Iraqi forces, 1,500 POW's taken, and large quantities of war materiel were seized proving once again that emptiness of Saddam's claims.

It is to be noted that after the release of the news of the triumph of the Iranian forces in yesterday's operations, the Iraqi regime claimed that it was still continuing its advances in Iranian territories and further lied that it had been able to repel the lightning-like assault of the combatants of Islam. Reporters are now welcome to view Iran's recent victories.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 711

LD271812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Communique 711 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots, the situation at war fronts and the condition of your brother soldiers, on the war fronts in the battle between right and wrong are hereby brought to your attention:

The victorious ground forces personnel on the Abadan fronts, while defending and protecting the regions covered by them and returning the enemy's fire, destroyed about 24 trenches, foxholes and observation posts as well as a tank, 3 ammunition depots and 2 of their vehicles. More than 15 were killed or wounded on these fronts.

The combatants of the navy and warriors of the gendarmerie station at the Khuninshahr fronts returned the enemy fire directed at their positions and gathering points. As a result, they destroyed some of their personnel entrenchments and military equipment and also killed a number of their troops.

Yesterday parts of the city of Abadan came under the enemy's long-range artillery fire and sustained some damage. The powerful combatants of the ground forces stationed on the fronts to the west of Dezful opened artillery and heavy-weapon fire on enemy positions and strongholds, destroying two tanks, one mortar, one vehicle and killing more than six personnel. They also destroyed weapons positions of the Iraqi forces, which resulted in seven of them being killed. In addition, the selfless combatants on these fronts, in a surprise attack, killed 28 Saddamists, captured 2 of them and destroyed some of their equipment.

On the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts, an exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire sporadically continued and our forces had the upper hand. In Dasht-e 'Abbas our forces succeeded in destroying 10 collective and individual entrenchments, 3 observations posts and 1 enemy command jeep by setting fire to them. A number of Iraqi forces were killed, too. The exchange of fire on most western fronts continued sporadically but was more intense on the Meymak front. Our powerful forces opened artillery and heavy-weapon fire on the enemy's artillery, tank and personnel positions, thus preventing them from taking any action. They also destroyed 15 heavy- and light-weapon positions of the Saddamists and killed 20 of them.

On the other western fronts like Salehabah, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Chaghalvand, Shur-e Shirin and Kane Bakht our fighting forces bravely stood up to the futile efforts and weak fire of Saddam's forces and while maintaining their firepower supremacy, foiled all actions and dealt effective and crushing blows to the enemy. In the (Khormal) region our forces succeeded in completely destroying 5 enemy entrenchments, killing 10 enemy soldiers and wounding 5 others. A number of enemy forces were forced to leave their positions and retreated as a result of our artillery fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 712

LD281802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Communique 712 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran marks the auspicious Navy Day on 28 November and praises the bravery and courageous efforts of the protectors of Iran's waters. It hails the pure souls of the martyrs of the navy and all martyrs of Islam. Details of battles fought by the combatants of the Islamic revolution against the Saddamist invaders during the past 24 hours are as follows:

An exchange of fire continued along the banks of the Karun and on both sides of the Shatt al-'Arab, and as a result of fire from our heavy weapons, 5 assembly points, 2 heavy machineguns, 1 ammunition depot, 1 communication equipment warehouse, 2 fieldguns and 25 personnel positions and observation posts were destroyed and about 50 of Saddam's forces were either killed or wounded. Due to enemy fire, several buildings in Abadan caught fire and a number of our compatriots were martyred or injured. The fighting personnel of the ground forces stationed in the Susangerd region opened fire on enemy positions, setting fire to two trucks, two other vehicles and some ammunition belonging to the enemy. In the region to the west of Dezful, the enemy lost one mortar, two fieldguns, two ammunition depots, one vehicle, one fuel tanker and six soldiers. Due to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Saddamist positions in Dasht-e 'Abbas and (Saberiyeh), (?two) enemy vehicles were destroyed and a number of others were damaged.

On the western fronts, artillery fire on enemy tank, mortar and artillery positions continued, and enemy movements in the Gilan-e Gharb region were stopped. Two mortars, 1 truck and several foxholes and trenches belonging to the aggressors in this region were also destroyed. In the Dar Ballut region, the alertness of our forces stopped the enemy from penetrating our positions and escaping. In the (Band-e Kabud) region, our firepower supremacy enabled us to destroy four enemy trenches and observation posts and the personnel stationed in them and a command jeep. In the operations on 25 November, seven followers of the path of faith and selflessness from the personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. May their souls rest in peace.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IMPORTANT HEIGHTS CAPTURED IN JAVANRUD REGION

LD281854 Tehran PARS in English 1645 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 28 Nov (PARS) -- The important heights of Sar Suran in the Javanrud region and the Darveleh and Sharvaleh regions in Sanshahan Province were completely captured by the Islamic forces during the past week, the Islamic revolutionary guards of the Seventh District reported. This report adds that [word indistinct] Iraqi soldiers were arrested by the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] in this province.

In these operations, ten Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one RPG-7, three Kalashnikovs, one Brno machinegun and large amounts of ammunition were seized from the enemy.

In the meantime, the Iraqi forces casualties in all other western fronts were 35 soldiers killed and some others wounded, during the 24 hours preceding Saturday. Also, two mortar launchers, one truck carrying personnel, one 106-mm gun, one troop concentration [as received], seven bunkers and six observation posts of the Iraqi forces were destroyed during this period.

PRIME MINISTER MUSAVI TOURS SOUTHERN CITIES

LD272038 Tehran PARS in English 1852 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 27 Nov (PARS) -- Prime Minister Musavi said to a group of Sunni Muslims in the Jame' Mosque of Kenarak near Chah Bahar, northeast of the Persian Gulf, today that the government had investment plans for the littoral cities aimed at promoting the people's welfare in the southern parts of Iran. Msuavi, who had arrived in the city along with the minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organisation, Dr Banki, at the end of a meeting with local government officials in Bandar-e 'Abbas said that due to the discriminatory policies of the past regime people living in other parts of the country did not know about the living conditions of the people in the southern cities. He added that in spite of the physical distances separating various regimes the Islamic revolution helps the people's hearts become closer to each other and thereby to establish a better understanding among them.

During his stay in Kenarak today the prime minister also visited Kenarak military base where he was welcomed by the commander of the base, Colonel Ossareh, the supervisor of the political and ideological bureau Hojjat ol-Eslam Qa'eni and a group of the officers of the armed forces as well as Islamic revolutionary guards and a group of local women. The prime minister also viewed the art facilities in Chah Bahar as he was guided by the governor general of the province, Mohammadi. He also visited the fisheries facilities of Kenarak and talked informally with local inhabitants.

Addresses Zahedan Guards Corps

LD281256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] According to PARS, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who went yesterday to the Sistan va Baluchestan and Hormozgan Provinces with the minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, Mr Banki, returned to Tehran today. According to the report, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi took part in this morning's ceremonies of our brothers in the army, gendarmerie, police and the Islamic Guards Corps at the garrison of Zahedan's 88th Armored Division. During these ceremonies, at which the governor general of the Sistan va Baluchestan Province was also present, the prime minister made a speech.

During his speech the prime minister said: Glory to all the combatants of our Islamic homeland, who are the strongest warriors on earth. In my brief speech I will only talk about the source of power of you, the combative armed forces, Revolution Guards Corps, and people's and security forces. You are powerful because you have joined the boundless ocean of the people. There are big armed forces in the world, with massive arsenals, atomic bombs, aircraft carriers and nuclear powered naval craft. But none of them is as powerful as you. They are only means for dominating other people. They have abandoned mankind and humanity. They have no links with the millions-strong masses and they are backed by satanic forces. But our combative powers have roots which have spread among the people. They have roots among the millions-strong masses who defeated the greatest arrogant power by their clenched fists, and who will defeat it again in future. This is the secret behind the strength and power of our combative forces. The prime minister added: Yesterday I was in Kenarak and I saw the huge base which the Americans were building for themselves -- a base so vast that they used to say it would take more than 1 hour to drive around it in a car traveling at a speed of more than 100 km per hour. That base was being built with all its massive installations so that a group of American advisors would keep our country under their thumb and under U.S. domination; so that we would have no independence, so that our armed forces would not belong to our masses; so that our combative forces would have no place in the hearts of our suffering and risen people. But the people were able to expel these advisors by providing numerous martyrs in the streets. They were able to break America's back and they were able to bring back an atmosphere of freedom in our country. And now it is an honour and a source of pride to be able to breathe the air of this country. In this atmosphere you, the armed forces, are proud; you are growing in this atmosphere, which is creating for you a future which will certainly belong to Islam and the oppressed of the world.

Mr Musavi added: You are representatives of the world oppressed. The oppressed of the world have fixed their eyes on you, the warriors. You are powerful because you have joined the truth. You did not move to suppress the people or to dominate and exploit them. You moved to bring freedom to the people. Herein lies your power. This blessed, pure and clean tree will certainly grow because its roots are in the blessed land of the truty, because God is beside you. You are powerful and you will become more powerful, because you are standard-bearers of Islam, because a great movement has been created among the Muslim nations, which will certainly change the face of today's world.

The prime minister, continuing his remarks, said: 3 years ago Iran was alone, but now we find the vanguards of this revolution in Egypt. We find them throughout the Islamic world. This is not a phenomenon unique to Iran. You belong to a revolution which does not remain in one territory, but belongs to the whole world. This movement is growing and gaining strength. Any power which belongs to this revolution will grow as this movement grows, will expand and gain strength. It is for the same reason that you brothers, you combatants and you the powerful zealots are the most powerful warriors on earth. And, God willing, you will remain so.